

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical disc playback apparatus for reproducing data from a plurality kinds of optical discs with data recorded thereon in different display formats and outputting an on-screen message composed of a font character (hereinafter referred to as 5 font), said apparatus comprising:

read means for reading record data from a recording surface of said optical disc;

10 on-screen message generation means for generating a digital character signal sequence to be displayed as said on-screen message; and

on-screen message font-resolution setting means for controlling said on-screen message generation means to set a resolution of said font to a value appropriate for the display format indicated by said record data.

2. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

optical disc determination means for determining a type of said optical disc based on said read record data, wherein

5 said on-screen message font-resolution setting means controls said on-screen message generation means to set the resolution of said font to 12 dots by 18 lines when said optical disc is determined as a music CD.

3. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 2, further comprising

display format determination means for determining a  
display format of said data to be reproduced based on said read  
5 record data, wherein

10 said on-screen message font-resolution setting means  
controls said on-screen message generation means to set the  
resolution of said font to a first standard resolution when said  
optical disc is determined as a disc other than the music CD and  
when the display format of said data to be reproduced is determined  
as NTSC.

4. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 3, wherein

5 said on-screen message font-resolution setting means  
controls said on-screen message generation means to set the  
resolution of said font to a second standard resolution by  
multiplying said first standard resolution by a predetermined  
scaling factor when said optical disc is determined as a disc other  
than the music CD and when the display format of said data to be  
reproduced is determined as PAL.

5. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 4, wherein

said predetermined scaling factor is 1.2.

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6. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 3, wherein

    said first standard resolution is set to 12 dots by 18 lines  
when said optical disc is determined as a video CD.

7. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 3, wherein

    said first standard resolution is set to 24 dots by 24 lines  
when said optical disc is determined as any one of an SVCD or DVD.

8. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 2, further comprising

    display format determination means for determining a  
display format of said data to be reproduced based on said record  
data, wherein

    said on-screen message font-resolution setting means  
controls said on-screen message generation means to set the  
resolution of said font to a predetermined standard resolution  
when said optical disc is determined as a disc other than the music  
CD and when the display format of said data to be reproduced is  
determined as PAL.

9. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 8, wherein

    said predetermined standard resolution is set to 12 dots

by 21 lines when said optical disc is determined as a video CD.

10. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 8, wherein

said predetermined standard resolution is set to 24 dots  
by 28 lines when said optical disc is determined as any one of  
5 an SVCD or DVD.

11. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 2, wherein

said optical disc determination means determines the type  
of said optical disc based on a control bit of a TOC included in  
5 said record data.

12. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 8, wherein

said display format determination means determines the  
display format of said data to be reproduced based on a sequence  
5 header included in said record data.

. 13. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising:

signal sequence separation means for separating a first  
music CD signal sequence and a non-music CD signal sequence which  
5 is a signal sequence other than the first music CD signal sequence,

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from said record data;

digital signal processing means for converting video signals included in said separated non-music CD signal sequence into a decoded digital signal sequence and converting audio data 10 included in the non-music CD signal sequence to a second music CD signal sequence;

video signal conversion means for converting said decoded digital signal sequence and said digital character signal sequence into analog video signals; and

15 audio signal conversion means for converting said first music CD signal sequence and said second music CD signal sequence into analog audio signals.

14. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein

said digital signal processing means is capable of decoding an MPEG1 signal sequence.

15. The optical disc playback apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein

said digital signal processing means is capable of decoding an MPEG2 signal sequence.

16. An optical disc playback method for reproducing data recorded on an optical disc and outputting an on-screen message

to be displayed in a font character of a predetermined resolution,  
said method comprising:

5           reading record data from a recording surface of said optical  
disc;

             generating a digital character signal sequence to be  
displayed as said on-screen message; and

             setting a resolution of said font character based on said  
10          read record data.

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